

Chapter 5

COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION

This chapter summarizes public scoping and other coordination and consultation conducted in conjunction with this EA on revisions to the Fire Management Plan for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. It also provides a list of preparers.

5.1 PUBLIC SCOPING

Sleeping Bear Dunes Natural Resource Management staff initiated scoping for the EA on updating the park's Wildland FMP on March 19, 2002, with a news release and March 21, 2002 letter (see Appendix D). The letter was mailed to approximately 60 addressees, including elected officials; Federal, Tribal, state and local government agencies; non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and park use and occupancy tenants. The news release was sent to about 30 news media outlets. The letter and news release requested comments on issues that should be addressed in the new FMP and draft EA and suggestions on possible ways to manage the park's fire management program. Persons and parties interested in commenting in writing were requested to have their letters postmarked no later than April 22, 2002.

In addition, the news release and letter informed stakeholders that SLBE would hold a scoping meeting open to the public on the evening of April 10, 2002 at the park visitor center in Empire, Michigan. This meeting was held on schedule and attended by approximately 25 members of the public, a reporter from the Traverse City *Record-Eagle*, and officials from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A number of comments were made orally at the meeting and several written comments were submitted. Also, a newspaper article reporting on the meeting appeared in the *Record-Eagle* (Smith, 2002).

In addition to elected officials at the local, county, state and Federal levels of government, the following agencies were contacted during the scoping process:

- Little River Band – Ottawa and Chippewa
- Little Traverse Band – Ottawa and Chippewa
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Minneapolis, Minnesota
- U.S. Forest Service, Huron/Manistee
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USGS Biological Resources Division
- State Fire Marshall
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Forest Management Division
- MDNR, Non-Game Division and Wildlife
- MDNR, Michigan Natural Features
- MDNR, Parks Division
- MDNR, Honor Station

- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Air Quality
- MDEQ Ground Water
- MDEQ Surface Water
- Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Homestead Fire Department
- Frankfort Fire Department
- Solon/Centerville Fire Department
- Empire Fire Department
- Glen Arbor Fire Department
- Leland Fire Department
- Benzonia Township Fire Department
- Benzie County Planning Department
- Leelanau County Planning Department
- Benzie Conservation District
- Leelanau Conservation District
- Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

In addition, a number of private organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were contacted during scoping about the forthcoming FMP and EA, including the following:

- Homestead Resort
- Leelanau Conservancy
- Michigan Land Institute
- Riverside Canoe Livery
- Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Shielding Tree Nature Center
- The Olson Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Audubon Society
- Manitou Island Transit

Each of these organizations will have an opportunity to review the Draft FMP and EA.

During scoping, a number of newspaper articles appeared on SLBE's fire management planning efforts (see Appendix D). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was the only Federal agency to send a letter to SLBE, which explained the USFWS role in implementing the 1973 Endangered Species Act with regard to the forthcoming FMP. The only letter received from a local governmental jurisdiction was from Lake Township, which advocated continuing the park's existing fire policy of no prescribed fires and full suppression of all wildland fires. In addition, Congressman Bart Stupak took an interest in FMP process, requesting in particular that a well-publicized, on-the-record hearing and comment period be provided for the public to air its concerns about the new FMP prior to its adoption. NEPA explicitly provides for such a public comment on a proposed action by first issuing a Draft Environmental Assessment, which the

public can review and comment on. The public review period can also include a public meeting or hearing.

5.2 CONSULTATION

The study team contacted and consulted with a number of persons and agencies with expertise in the subject matter or jurisdiction over given resources. This list is presented in Table 5.2.

Table 5 – Persons and Agencies Contacted	
Person Contacted	Agency/Organization
Gordon Anderson, Planner	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Policy and Planning Division
Jim DeCoster, Fire Ecologist	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office
Bonita Eliason, Supervisor	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
Mike Evans, Regional Ethnographer	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office
Cal Gale, Fire and Natural Resource Consultant	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (ret.); sub-consultant to Mangi Environmental Group, Baldwin, Wisconsin
KellyAnn Gorman, Fire Ecologist	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Great Lakes Ecoregion
Kevin Hop, Project Team Leader	U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center
Walter M. Kunath, Drafting Services	Michigan Consolidated Gas Company
Marla McEnaney, Historical Landscape Architect	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office
Brian Mitchell, Environmental Protection Specialist	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Natural Resource Program Center
Roger Moder, Chief Park Ranger	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Kurt Rusterholz, Forest Ecologist	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
John Schomaker, Natural Resources Planner	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota
Dave Soleim, Border Lakes Complex Fire Management Officer	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Voyageurs National Park
Dan P. Stinnett, Field Supervisor	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities Field Office, Bloomington, Minnesota
Kim Struthers, GIS Specialist	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Paul Tiné, Fire Management Plan Consultant / Fire Specialist	USDA Forest Service, Superior National Forest, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (ret.)
Ronald Wilson, State Forest Fire Supervisor	Michigan DNR, Forest Management Division

5.3 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following people contributed to the preparation of this Environmental Assessment:

Name	Responsibilities
The Mangi Environmental Group, Inc.	
Jim Mangi	Company principal; project oversight
Leon Kolankiewicz	Project manager and principal author
Webb Smith	Expertise and consultation in all areas
Timothy Smith	Advice on cultural resource analysis
Rebecca Whitney	Geographic Information Specialist
Tim Gaul	Geographic Information Specialist
Debra Wenner	Geographic Information Specialist
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	
Tom Ulrich	Editing and project management
Steve Yancho	Editing and project management
Kim Mann	Geographic Information Specialist